



Press Release

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Idaho Cattle Inventory at Record High 2.37 Million Head

Idaho cattle and calf inventory totaled a record high 2.37 million head as of January 1, 2013, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The January 1, 2013 inventory increased 7 percent from January 1, 2012. Last year's inventory shared the previous record high with January 1, 2011. There were 510,000 beef cows, up 9 percent from last year. Milk cows on hand at the beginning of the year were 580,000 head, down 1,000 head from a year ago. The number of beef replacement heifers, at 120,000, was up 33 percent from a year ago, heifers for milk cow replacement, at 310,000, was up 3 percent and other heifers 500 pounds and over was 210,000 head, up 11 percent from last year. Statewide, there were 275,000 steers over 500 pounds, 40,000 bulls over 500 pounds and 325,000 calves under 500 pounds on January 1, 2013. The 2012 calf crop totaled 960,000 head, up 5 percent from the calf crop of 2011.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2013 totaled 89.3 million head, 2 percent below the 90.8 million on January 1, 2012. This is the lowest January 1 inventory of all cattle and calves since the 88.1 million head on hand in 1952. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 38.5 million head, were down 2 percent from the 39.4 million head on January 1, 2012. This is the lowest January 1 inventory of all cows and heifers that have calved since the 36.8 million head in 1941. Beef cows reported at 29.3 million head were down 3 percent from January 1, 2012. Milk cows, at 9.2 million head were unchanged from a year ago. On January 1 all heifers 500 pounds and over were at 19.1 million head, down 1 percent. Beef replacement heifers increased 2 percent from last year to 5.4 million head. Milk replacement heifer inventory fell 2 percent from a year ago to 4.6 million head. Other heifers were at 9.2 million head, down 3 percent from last year's level. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were at 15.8 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2012. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over were 2.1 million head, down 2 percent from last year. Calves under 500 pounds inventory was 13.8 million head, down 2 percent from a year ago. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots was at 13.4 million head, down 5 percent from January 1, 2012. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 25.5 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 2012 calf crop was estimated at 34.3 million head, down 3 percent from 2011. This is the smallest calf crop since the 33.7 million born during 1949. Calves born during the first half of 2012 are estimated at 25.0 million, down 3 percent from 2011.

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